

Lesson
3

Conjunctions

Teaching

A **conjunction** is a word used to join words or groups of words. Different kinds of conjunctions do different jobs.

A **coordinating conjunction** connects words or groups of words used in the same way. The words joined may be used as subjects, objects, predicates, or any other sentence part.

Some common coordinating conjunctions are *and*, *but*, *or*, *nor*, and *yet*. Use *and* to connect similar things or ideas. Use *but* or *yet* to contrast things or ideas. Use *or* or *nor* to introduce a choice.

Meriwether Lewis and John Clark led an expedition to the West.

The United States owned the Louisiana Territory but knew little else about it.

No one had followed the Missouri or the Columbia rivers to their source.

Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that connect words used in the same way.

Common correlative conjunctions are *both . . . and*, *either . . . or*, *neither . . . nor*, *not only . . . but also*, and *whether . . . or*.

Both Lewis and Clark had served in the U.S. Army.

Identifying Conjunctions

Underline all the conjunctions in the following sentences. Remember there are two parts to a correlative conjunction.

1. President Jefferson was looking for a water route between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans.
2. No one knew whether that was possible or not.
3. Both Lewis and Clark brought their special skills to the expedition.
4. Lewis knew about plants and animals, and Clark was a good mapmaker.
5. Most encounters with Native Americans were friendly, but some were filled with danger.
6. Both the beauty of the land and its abundant wildlife impressed the explorers.
7. The expedition could follow either the right branch of the river or the left one.
8. The explorers needed an interpreter, and they met Sacagawea, a Shoshone woman.
9. The party crossed the mountains and spent the winter in Oregon.
10. Neither Lewis nor Clark should ever be forgotten.
11. We couldn't all be on this expedition, but we can read about it in the explorers' journals.

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More Practice

A. Identifying Conjunctions

In the following sentences, underline the conjunctions.

1. I like hockey, but I prefer football.
2. Neither the coaches nor the timekeepers knew the score.
3. Junk food may taste good, but it is not good for you.
4. Both badminton and volleyball require a net on the court.
5. Jon hit a home run and won the game.
6. The keys are either on the table or in the drawer.
7. Should we play chess or watch the game?
8. Not only was it raining, but it was also hailing.
9. This restaurant serves neither breakfast nor lunch.
10. This pineapple juice is both cool and refreshing.

B. Using Conjunctions

Complete each of the following sentences with a coordinating conjunction or a correlative conjunction.

EXAMPLE Exploring is exciting, but it is also dangerous.

1. Lewis _____ Clark explored the West, _____ their story is fascinating.
2. _____ Lewis _____ Clark had ever been to Montana before.
3. They thought they knew what they might find, _____ they were still amazed.
4. They took _____ a keelboat _____ canoes up the Missouri River.
5. At one point, they couldn't decide _____ to follow one stream _____ another.
6. They must have made the right choice, _____ we would never have heard about them.
7. If _____ Lewis _____ Clark had been less curious, the United States might not extend to the Pacific coast.
8. On the way back from Oregon, Lewis went one way _____ Clark went through the Yellowstone area.
9. We read about their adventures, _____ reading is not as exciting as exploring.
10. I sometimes wonder _____ I would have gone on this expedition _____ stayed home.

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Application

A. Proofreading

Proofread the following paragraph, adding appropriate conjunctions where they are needed.

Without the help of a Shoshone woman, the Lewis _____ Clark expedition might have failed. Sacagawea was very young, _____ she was still able to serve as guide and interpreter for the explorers. Sacagawea had been captured by an enemy tribe when she was only 14 years old _____ taken from her home. Later she met her husband, a fur trader named Toussaint. Soon after her first baby's birth, _____ she _____ Toussaint were hired by Lewis and Clark to guide them through the mountains _____ act as interpreters to tribes along the way. The trip across the mountains was going to be hard and dangerous, especially without fresh supplies. Imagine Sacagawea's surprise when the weary expedition met a tribe, _____ its chief was her own brother! _____ she _____ her brother had seen each other for years. Sacagawea's brother traded with the expedition for food _____ supplies. The explorers were able to go on _____ earn their place in history.

B. Writing with Conjunctions

Imagine that you had been on the Lewis and Clark expedition into the unknown West in 1804. What sights might you have seen? What would have impressed you the most—the wide prairies, the rushing rivers, the steep mountains, or the peaceful ocean? Write a journal entry for one day in your imagined trip. Use at least two coordinating conjunctions and two correlative conjunctions. Underline all the conjunctions.
